

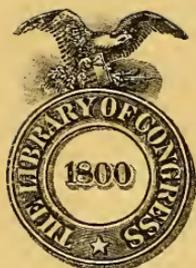
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TWELVE JAPANESE PAINTERS

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# TWELVE JAPANESE PAINTERS

BY

ARTHUR  
DAVISON  
FICKE



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The Ukiyoe School of Japanese painting, best known of all Japanese schools, but still too little known, is the theme of this group of poems. It were too much to hope that, through them, any new lover could be led to these remarkable paintings and prints; but at least a few old lovers may be interested to examine an attempt at voicing certain impressions which these works produce in all who are familiar with them.

For the cover-design of this volume, the author is deeply indebted to Mr. Frederick W. Gookin.



## PROLOGUE

As chosen guests ye may partake  
Of this strange hostel's ancient wine.  
For thirst no common drink can slake,  
Tapsters of lineage divine  
Here pour sweet anodyne.

The hurly-burly of the road,  
The turmoil of the carters' feet,  
Intrude not to this still abode  
Where travelers from the world-ends meet,  
And find the gathering sweet.

Hence may perhaps some secret gleam  
Follow along our onward way,  
From evening feast with lords of dream,  
As we go forth into the gray  
Tomorrow's cloudy day.



## CONTENTS.

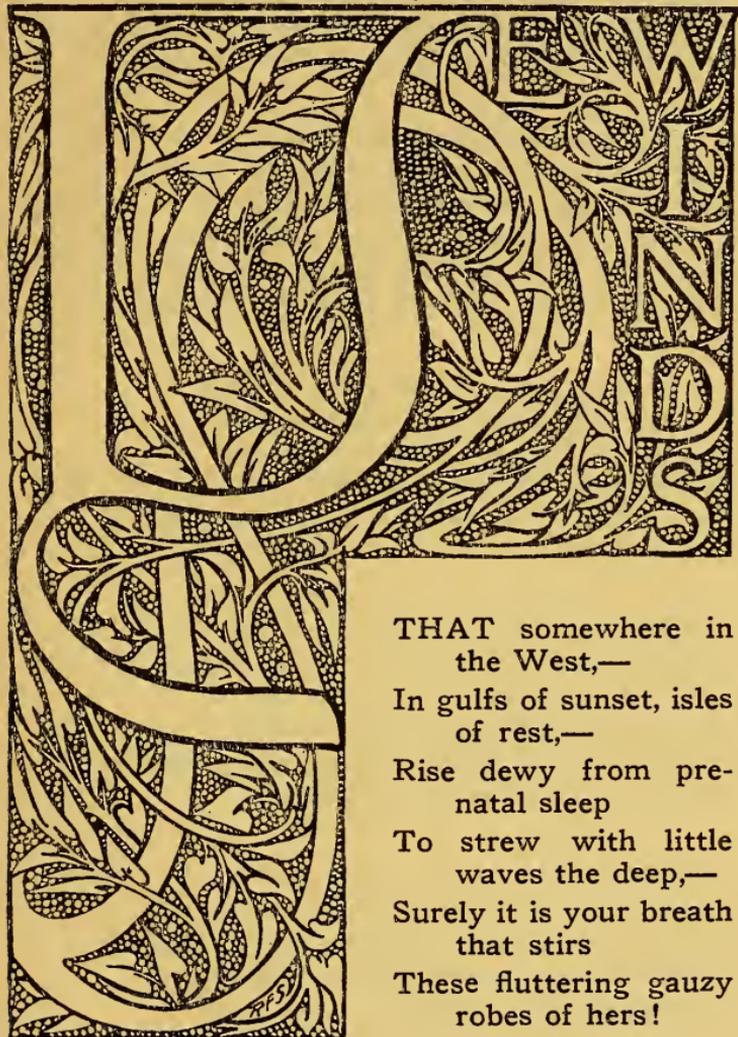
Prologue .....	3
Figure of a Girl by Harunobu.....	7
Koriusai Speaks .....	11
Portrait of an Actor in Tragic role by Shunsho..	13
Festival Scene by Kiyonaga.....	15
Dramatic Portrait by Sharaku.....	17
Group of Women by Shuncho.....	19
Two Women by Kitao Masanobu.....	21
Portrait of a Woman by Yeishi.....	23
Landscape by Hiroshige.....	27
The Pupil of Toyokuni.....	29
Landscape by Hokusai.....	33
A Group of Ladies by Toyohiro.....	35
Portrait of a Woman by Utamaro.....	37
The Birds and Flowers of Hiroshige.....	41
The Landscapes of Hiroshige.....	43
Epilogue .....	47



TWELVE JAPANESE PAINTERS



# FIGURE OF A GIRL BY HARUNOBU



THAT somewhere in  
the West,—  
In gulfs of sunset, isles  
of rest,—  
Rise dewy from pre-  
natal sleep  
To strew with little  
waves the deep,—  
Surely it is your breath  
that stirs  
These fluttering gauzy  
robes of hers!

Come whence ye may, I marvel not  
That ye are lured to seek this spot:  
Your tenuous scarcely-breathèd powers  
Sway not the sturdier garden-flowers,  
And had unmanifest gone by—  
Save that she feels them visibly.

O little winds, her little hands  
In time with tunes from faery-lands  
Are moving; and her bended head  
Knows nothing of the long years sped  
Since heaven more near to earth was hung,  
And gods lived, and the world was young.

Her inner robe, of tenderest fawn,  
In cool faint fountains of the dawn  
Was dyed; and her long outer dress  
Borrows its luminous loveliness  
From some clear bowl with water filled  
In which one drop of wine was spilled.

Peace folds her in its deeps profound;  
Her shy glance lifts not from the ground;  
And through this garden's still retreat  
She moves with tripping silver feet  
Whose trancéd grace, where'er she strays,  
Turns all the days to holy days.

Hers is the boon of manifold  
Small joys that never can grow old.  
Though her poised head and quiet eye  
The mood of these light steps deny,  
It is the playful solemn art  
Of childhood innocence of heart.

Come! let us softly steal away.  
For what can we, whose hearts are gray,  
Bring to her dreaming paradise?  
A chill shall mock her from our eyes;  
A cloud shall dim this radiant air:  
Come! for our world is elsewhere.

But O ye little winds that blow  
From golden islands long ago  
Lost to our searching in the deep  
Of dreams between the shores of sleep,—  
Ye shall her happy playmates be,  
Fluttering her robes invisibly.



## II

### KORIUSAI SPEAKS

Let whoso will take sheets as wide  
As some great wrestler's mountain-back:  
Space will not hide  
His lack.

Take thou the panel, being strong.  
'Tis as a girl's arm fashioned right,—  
As slender and divinely long  
And white.

That tall and narrow icy space  
Gives scope for all the brush beseems.  
And who shall ask a wider place  
For dreams?

It is an isle amid the tide,—  
A chink wherethrough shines one lone star,—  
A cell where calms of heaven hide  
Afar.

One chosen curve of beauty wooed  
From out the harsh chaotic world  
Shall there in solitude  
Be furled.

The narrow door shall be so strait  
Life cannot vex, with troubled din,  
Beauty, beyond that secret gate  
Shut in.

Lo! I will draw two lovers there,  
Alone amid their April hours,  
With lines as drooping and as fair  
As flowers.

I will make Spring to circle them  
Like a faint aureole of delight.  
Their luminous youth and joy shall stem  
The night.

And men shall say—Behold! he chose,  
From Time's wild welter round him strown,  
This hour; and paid for its repose  
His own.

### III

#### PORTRAIT OF AN ACTOR IN TRAGIC ROLE BY SHUNSHO

His soul is a sword ;  
His sword with the spirit's breath  
Is bathed of its terrible lord,  
In whose eyes is death.

And the massive control,  
And the lighted implacable eye  
Leash a fierce and exalted soul  
Of dark destiny.

\* \* \* \*

With the strength of the hills,—  
Kiso's iron mountains of snow,—  
He waits: time brings and fulfills  
The hour for the blow.

He waits; and the white  
Full robes round his shoulders sway,  
With woof of pale orange alight,  
Pale green, pale gray.

Like a falcon, flown  
To bleak mid-regions of sky,  
He poises. One image alone  
Holds his sinister eye,—

A vision, a prey  
Toward which he shall soon be hurled;—  
And his fury shall darken the day,  
And his joy, the world.

\* \* \* \*

A music enfolds him  
Like the thunders that are poured  
Across heaven; it holds him  
With the song of the sword.

It enralls, it inspires,  
And its zenith shall be  
Lightning of unleashed desires  
Crashing along the sea.

## IV

### FESTIVAL SCENE BY KIYONAGA

What gods are these, reborn from gracious days  
To fill our gardens with diviner mould  
Than therein dwelling? What bright race of old  
Revisits here one hour our mortal ways?  
Serene, dispassionate, with lordly gaze  
They move through this clear afternoon of gold,  
Equal to life and all its deeps may hold,  
Calm, spacious masters of the glimmering maze.

What gods are these? or godlike men? whom  
earth  
Suffices, in a wisdom just and high  
That not repines the boundaries of its birth  
But fills its destined measure utterly—  
Finding in mortal sweetness perfect worth,  
Not yet grown homesick for the wastes of sky.



V

DRAMATIC PORTRAIT BY SHARAKU

Whence art thou come,  
Tall figure clasping to thy tragic breast  
Thy orange robe, a flame amid the gloom—  
By what wild doom  
Art thou forever onward, onward pressed?

A wreath is on thy brow,—  
A crown of leafage from some lonely haunt  
Where might Medea's shade brood ministrant.  
Thy shoulders bow  
Beneath what fearful weight, what need, what vow?

A leopard fierce—  
A ghost that wanders down the wandering wind—  
A fury tracking toward some shaken mind,—  
Where shall I find  
The divination that thy veil shall pierce?

How shall I wrest  
From thee the secret of thy lofty doom—  
From what wild gulf of midnight thou dost come  
Who, with clutched breast,  
Stalkest forever onward,—onward pressed?



## VI

### GROUP OF WOMEN BY SHUNCHO

Your lovely ladies shall not fade  
Though Yedo's moated walls be laid  
Level with dust, and night-owls brood  
Over the city's solitude.  
Far be the coming of that day!  
Yet that it comes not, who shall say?  
Who knows how long the halls shall stand  
Of your once-golden wonderland?  
Perhaps shall Nikko crumble down,  
Its carvings worn, its glow turned brown  
Through many winters. On that hill  
Where great Ieyasu's brazen will  
In brazen tomb now takes its rest,  
Perhaps the eagle's young shall nest.  
Kyoto's gardens cannot last.  
At Kamakura, where the vast  
Form of the Buddha fronts the sea,  
A waste of waves may someday be. . . .

Ah, stale and flat the warning bell  
Whose melancholy accents tell  
Impermanence to hearts that guess  
Time's undiscovered loveliness.  
A fairer Yedo shall arise;  
A richer Nikko praise the skies;  
Ieyasus mightier than of old  
Shall cast the world in wiser mould;  
Fresh gardens shall be spread; new faith  
Shall spring when Buddha is a wraith;—  
And more puissant hands than yours  
Shall paint anew life's ancient lures.  
Yet when he comes who shall surpass

Your beauty that so matchless was,  
A joy shall light him through your eyes,  
A flame shall from your embers rise,  
Your gentle art shall make him wise  
In mastery of melodies.—  
And though your wreath in dust be laid,  
Your lovely ladies shall not fade!

## VII

### TWO WOMEN BY KITAO MASANOBU.

What floors have ye trod? What sky-paven  
places have opened their halls to your eyes?  
What light was yours, through summerward spaces  
watching the swallow that flies?  
What holy silence has touched your faces—what  
hush of paradise?

I think that he died of a longing unspoken who  
dreamed you to walk in our ways.  
The wheel at the cistern, the pitcher is broken: ye  
wot not that dust decays—  
Ye, torn from the heart of the dreamer as token to  
dreamers of other days.



## VIII

### PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN BY YEISHI

#### I

Out of the silence of dead years  
Your slender presence seems to move—  
A fragrance that no time outwears—  
A perilous messenger of love.

From far, your wistful beauty brings  
A wonder that no lips may speak,—  
A music dumb save as it clings  
About your shadowy throat and cheek.

Longing is round you like that haze  
Of luminous and tender glow  
Which memory in the later days  
Gives vanished days of long ago.

And he who sees you must retrace  
All sweetness that his life has known,  
And with the vision of your face  
Link some lost vision of his own.

The long curves of your saffron dress,—  
The outline of your delicate mould,—  
Your strange unearthly slenderness  
Seem like a wraith's that strayed of old

Out of some region where abide  
Fortunate spirits without stain,  
Where nothing lovely is denied,  
And pain is only beauty's pain.

## II

Strange! that in life you were a thing  
Common to many for delight,  
Thrall to the revelries that fling  
Their gleam across the fevered night:—

A holy image in the grasp  
Of pagans careless to adore;  
A pearl secreted in the clasp  
Of oozy weeds on some lost shore.

My thought shrinks back from what I see  
And wanders dumb in poisoned air—  
Then leaps, inexplicably free,  
Remembering that you were fair!

## III

Belovèd were you in your prime  
By one, of all, who came as guest,—  
A wastrel strange, whose gaze could climb  
To where your beauty lit the west.

One,—in whose secret heart there moved  
Some far and unforgotten stir  
Of ancient holy beauties loved,—  
Here paused, a sudden worshiper.

Methinks he moved in dusks apart  
Through that profound and trembling hour  
When you within his doubting heart  
Touched all the desert into flower.

And where you rose a world's delight,  
For him the dark veils from you fell,—  
As earthly clouds from star-strewn night  
Withdraw, and leave a miracle.

Not Oiran then, but maid; remote  
From tyrant powers of waste desire.  
Who drew these hands, this slender throat,  
Saw you mid shaken winds of fire.

You were a shape of wonder, set  
To crown the seeking of his days.  
For you his lonely eyes were wet;  
With you his soul walked shrouded ways.

And though the burning night might keep  
You servient to some lord's carouse,  
For him you rose from such a deep  
With maiden dawn-light on your brows.

#### IV

Pale Autumn with ethereal glow  
Hovered your delicate figure near;  
And ever round you whispered low  
Her voices, and the dying year.

A year,—a day,—and then the leaves  
Purpureal, ashen, umber, red,  
Wove for you both through waning eves  
A gorgeous carpet gloomward spread.

And with that waning, you had gone,  
Through changes that love fears to trace—  
No later lover could have known  
Your wistful and alluring face—

Your music, quivering in thin air,  
Had fled with life that filled your veins—  
But he for whom you were so fair  
Dreamed; and the troubled dream remains.

V

Time, that is swift to smite and rend  
The common things that spring from earth,  
Dares not so surely set an end  
To shapes of visionary birth.

There often his destroying touch  
Lingers as with a lulled caress,  
Adding, to that which has so much,  
An alien ghostly loveliness.

So shall your beauty, crescent, pass  
From me through many a later hand,  
Each year more luminous than it was—  
O April out of Sunset Land!

## IX

### LANDSCAPE BY HIROSHIGE

(The Bow-Moon)

Where the torrent leaps and falls,  
And the hanging cliffs look down,—  
Cloven gray and ruddy walls,  
Each with ragged forest-crown,—

There across the chasmèd deep  
Spans a gossamer bridge on high;  
And below, from gulfs of sleep,  
Mounts the Bow-Moon up the sky.

Blue dusk, thickening whence she rose,  
Her abysses veils; above  
Moves she into daylight's close  
As faint strains of music move.

On the eastern slope her feet,—  
White, in tranced ecstasy,—  
Climb, a ghost of heaven, so sweet  
That the spent day cannot die.

Walled by crags on either side  
Glimmers forth her figure wan,  
Straying like some lonely bride  
Through the halls of Kubla Khan.

Pilgrim of the riven deep!  
Wheresoe'er thy lover lie,  
Sleep to him is troubled sleep  
While his Bow-Moon haunts the sky.



## THE PUPIL OF TOYOKUNI

I walk the crowded Yedo streets.  
 And everywhere one question greets  
 My passing, as the strollers say—  
 "How goes the Master's work today?  
 We saw him sketching hard last night  
 At Ryogoku, where the bright  
 Trails of the rockets lit the air.  
 You should have seen the ladies there!  
 All the most famous of the town  
 In gorgeous robes walked up and down  
 The long bridge-span, well knowing he  
 Was there to draw them gorgeously.  
 I'm sure he'll give us something fine,—  
 Dark splendid figures, lights ashine,  
 A great procession of our best  
 And costliest Oiran, with the West  
 Burning behind them. When it's done,  
 Pray, of the copies, save me one."

Yes, I am pupil to the great.  
 How well he bears his famous state!  
 With what superbness he fulfills  
 The multitude's delighted wills,  
 Giving them, at their eager call,  
 Each play and feast and festival  
 Drawn with a rich magnificence:  
 And they come flocking with their pence  
 To buy his sheets whose supple power  
 Captures the plaudits of the hour,—  
 Till even Utamaro's eyes  
 Turn, kindled with swift jealousies.

Strange! that before this crowded shrine  
One voice is lacking, and that mine,—  
I, learner in his lordly house,—  
I, on whose cold unwilling brows  
The lights of his strong glory burn  
Blinding my heart that needs must yearn  
Far from the measure of his state,—  
I, liegeman to another fate.  
Would that some blindness came on me  
That I might cease one hour to see  
For all his high, ambitious will  
His is a peasant's nature still. . . .  
What utter madness that my thought  
Weighs him,—I who am less than naught!  
Where he walks boldly, there I creep.  
Where his assured long brush-strokes sweep  
Unhesitant, there I falter, strain  
With agony,—perhaps in vain,—  
For some more subtly curving line,  
Some musical poisoning of design  
That shall at last, at last express  
My frailer glimpse of loveliness.  
And yet, for all his facile art,  
I hug my impotence to my heart.  
For there are things his marching mind  
In steady labors day by day  
With all its sight shall never find,  
With all its craft can never say.  
There are lights along the dusky street  
That his bold eyes have never caught;  
There are tones more luminous, more sweet  
Than any that his hopes have sought.  
There are torturing lines that curve and fall  
Like dying echoes musical,  
Or twine and lace and bend and roll  
In labyrinths to lure my soul.  
His ladies sumptuous and rare

Move princess-like in proud design  
Of glowing loveliness: but where  
His bannered pomps and pageants shine,  
I feel a stiller, rarer peace,  
A cadence breathless, slender, lone.  
And where his facile brush-strokes cease  
Begins the realm that is my own.

I wander lonely by fields and streams.  
I lie in wait for lingering dreams  
That brood, a tender-lighted haze  
Down the wide space of ending days,—  
A secret thrill that hovering flies  
Round some tall form, some wistful eyes,  
Some thin branch where the Spring is green,—  
A whisper heard, a light half-seen  
By lonely wanderers abroad  
In crowded streets or solitude  
Of hills,—to haunt with dim unrest  
The empty chambers of the breast.

Perhaps some day a heart shall come,  
Like me half-blind, like me half-dumb,  
Like me contentless with the clear  
Sunlighted beauties men hold dear.  
Perhaps he shall more greatly prize  
My faltered whispers from afar  
Than all the Master's pageantries  
And confident pomp and press and jar.  
Yet, well or ill, how shall I change  
The measure doled, the nature given?  
Mine is the thirst for far and strange  
Echoes of a forgotten heaven.  
I listen for the ghosts of sound;  
Remote I watch life's eager stream;  
Through wastes afar, through gulfs profound,  
I, Toyohiro, seek my dream.



XI.

LANDSCAPE BY HOKUSAI.

(The Wave at Kanazawa.)

Because thou wast marvelous of eye, magic of  
fancy, lithe of hand,—  
Because thou didst play o'er many a gulf where  
common mortals dizzy stand,—  
Because no thing in earth or sky escaped the pry-  
ings of thine art,—  
I call thee, who wast master of all, the master with  
the monkey's heart.

Where in the street the drunkards roll,—where  
in the ring the wrestlers sway,—  
Where rustics pound the harvest rice, or fishers sail,  
or abbots pray,—  
In rocky gorge, or lowland field, or winter heights  
of mountain air,—  
Wherever man or beast or bird or flower finds  
place,—yea, everywhere,  
Thou standest, as I fancy, rapt in the live play of  
mass and line,  
Curiously noting every poise; and in that ugly head  
of thine  
Storing it with unsated fierce passion for life's min-  
utest part,  
Some day to use infallibly,—O master with the  
monkey's heart!

Where Kanazawa's thundering shores behold the  
mounded waters rave,  
And Fuji looms above the plain, and the plain  
slopes to meet the wave,—

There didst thou from the trembling sands un-  
leash thy soul in sudden flight  
To soar above the whirling waste with awe and  
wonder and delight.  
Thou sawest the giant tumult poured; each slope  
and chasm of cloven brine  
Called thee; and from the scattered rout one vision  
did thy sight divine—  
One heaven-affronting whelming wave in which all  
common waves have part—  
A billow from the wrath of God,—O monkey with  
a master's heart!

What mind shall span thee? Who shall praise  
or blame thy world-embracing sight  
Whose harvest was each rock and wraith, each form  
of loathing or of light?  
Though we should puzzle all our days, we shall not  
know thee as thou art,  
Nor where the seer of visions ends, nor where be-  
gins the monkey's heart.

## XII.

### A GROUP OF LADIES BY TOYOHIRO.

O careless passer,—O look deep!  
These forms from near the sea of sleep  
Come hither: on each forehead gleams  
The phosphorescent spray of dreams.  
They have sailed in from lonely seas,  
Cloaked in a haze of mysteries;  
And hither by a lord are led  
Who snared them, pale himself with dread,  
Upon the very shores of sleep.  
O careless passer-by, look deep!



### XIII.

#### PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN BY UTAMARO

##### I

In robes like clouds at sunset rolled  
About the dying sun,—  
In splendid vesture of purple and gold  
That a thousand toiling days have spun  
For thee, O imperial one!—

With the cunning pomp of the later years,  
With their pride and glory and stress,  
Thou risest; and thy calm forehead bears  
These like a crown; but thy frail mouth wears  
All of their weariness.

Thou art one of the great, who mayest stand  
Where Cleopatra stood,  
Aspasia, Rhodope, at each hand;  
And even the proud tempestuous mood  
Of Sappho shall rule thy blood.

Thy throat, in its slender whiteness bare,  
Seems powerless to sustain  
The gorgeous tower of thy gold-decked hair,—  
Like a lily's stem which the autumn air  
Maketh to shrink and wane.

More haunting music, more luring love  
Round thy sinuous form hold sway  
Than the daughters of earth have knowledge of;  
For thou art the daughter of fading day,  
Touched with all hope's decay.

And the subtle languor, the prismic glow  
Of a ripeness overpast  
Burns through the wonderful curving flow  
Of thy garments; and they who love thee know  
A loathing at the last.

For they are the lovers of living things,—  
Stars, sunlight, morning's breath;  
But thou, for all that thy beauty brings  
Such songs as the Summer scattereth,—  
Thou art of the House of Death.

## II

But there was one, in thy golden day,  
Who saw thy popped bloom,  
And loved not thee but the heart's decay  
That filled thee; and clasped it to be alway  
His chosen and sealed doom.

He who this living portrait wrought,  
Outlasting time's control,  
A dark and bitter nectar sought  
Welling from poisoned streams that roll  
Through deserts of the soul. . . . .

## III

Ah dreamer! come at last where dreams  
Can serve no more thy need,  
Who hast by such bright silver streams  
Walked with thy soul that now earth seems  
A waste where love must bleed,—

Thou whom such matchless beauty filled  
Of visions frail and lone,—  
For thee all passion now is stilled;  
Thy heart, denied the life it willed,  
Desireth rather none.

And thee allure no verdant blooms  
That with fresh joy suspire;  
But blossoms touched with coming glooms,  
And weariness, and spent desire,  
Draw to thy spirit nigher.

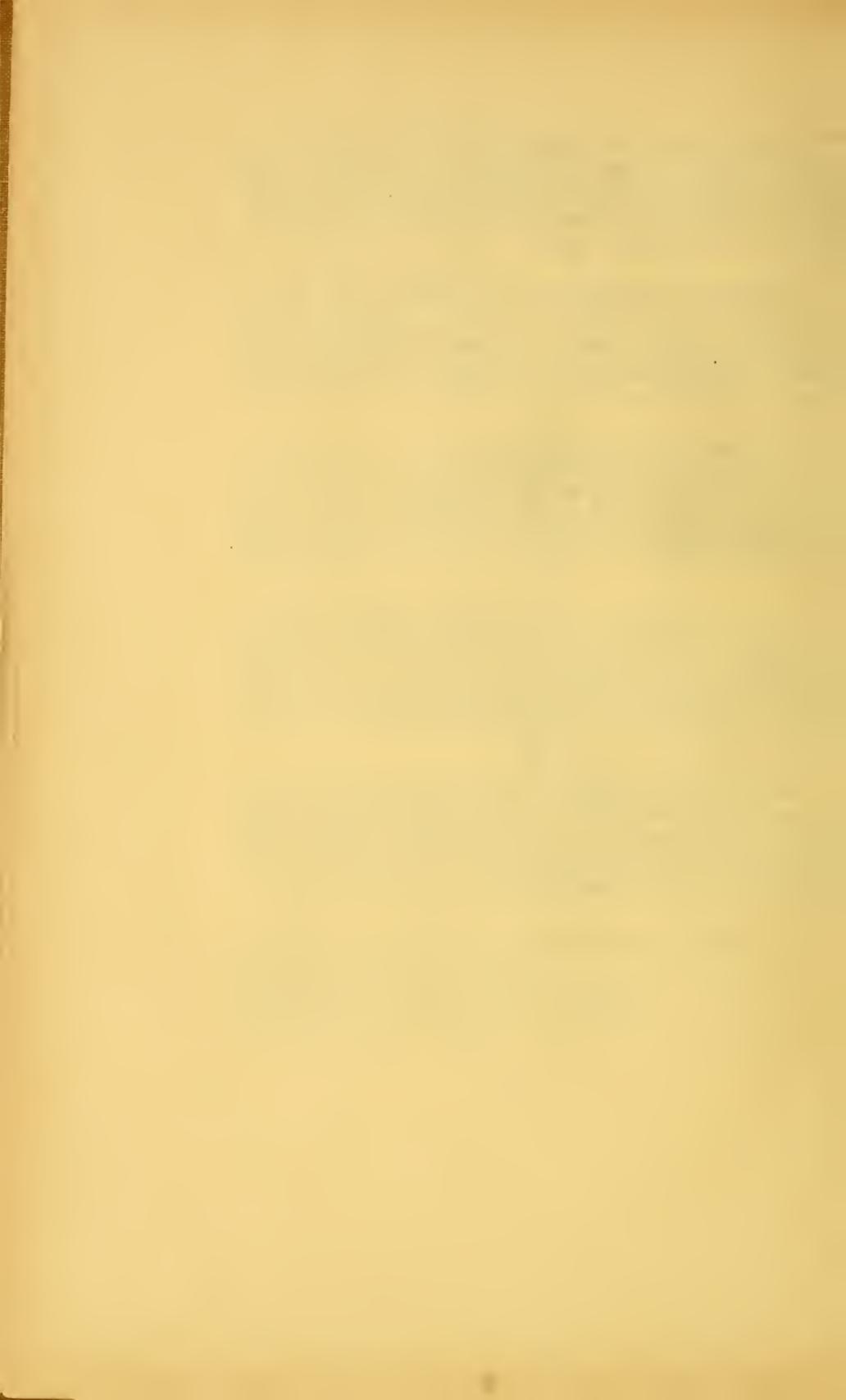
Wherefore is nothing in thy sight  
Propitious save it be  
Brushed with the wings of hovering night,  
Worn with the shadow of delight,  
Sad with satiety.

For thou hast enmity toward all  
The servants of life's breath;  
One mistress holdeth thee in thrall,  
And them thou lovest who her call  
Answer; and she is Death.

#### IV

Now Death thy ruined city's streets  
Walketh, a grisly queen.  
And there Her sacred horror greets  
Him who invades these waste retreats,  
Her sacrosanct demesne,—

In robes like clouds at sunset rolled  
About the dying sun,  
In splendid vestments of purple and gold  
That a thousand perished years have spun  
For Her, the Imperial One.



XIV

THE BIRDS AND FLOWERS OF HIROSHIGE

Alit against the emerald sky,  
A tiny violet songster swings,  
Clutching a branch, in ecstasy  
Of light and height and skiey things.  
Singing, he swings; and swinging, I  
For once am showered with joy of wings.

Keen and pure, of a magic power,  
Thy rapture stirs what was never stirred.  
Thou hast brought to earth a cloudland dower,—  
The joy of the small sweet singing bird.  
All time is richer for thy hour  
Of delicate music, gravely heard.

Does the iris droop beneath the heat?  
Its weariness finds voice in thee.  
Does the pheasant run with snow-clogged feet?  
Winter is theirs who thy vision see.  
Is summer's glow to the swallow sweet?  
Thou hast captured its summer eternally.

Thou hast wrought each as a lyric note  
Pure with one mood of sky and trees  
And flowers, and tiny lives that float  
Or dart or poise in world of these.  
The painter's hand, the thrush's throat,—  
Which masters best these melodies?

Gusty rain through the treetops blown  
And a bird that scuds where the gray gusts hiss,—  
Sapphire wings and a golden crown  
Flung skyward in unconscious bliss—  
No rare enchanted bird has known  
As thou hast known the savor of this!

And winning it, thou hast cast aside  
Thy native bonds of mortal birth,—  
Flinging the spirit-pinions wide  
Above this world of weary worth,—  
To float and poise and skyward ride  
With them whose realm is not the earth.—

The peacock in his proud repose—  
Wild-geese that rush across the moon—  
The little sleepy owl that knows  
The wind-among-the-tree-tops tune,—  
The kingfisher that darts and glows  
Over the reeds of the lagoon—

The flower-lured hummingbird that weaves  
Spirals more delicate than they—  
Sanderlings that on moonlit eves  
Over the wave-crest swoop and play—  
The crane that shores of sunset leaves  
For sunset skies of far away.

XV

THE LANDSCAPES OF HIROSHIGE

As merchantmen from Eastern isles  
In caravels of purple came,  
With freight that alien heart beguiles,—  
Incense, and cloths of woven flame,—

So down the gulfs of elder time  
Thy glorious pinions bear to me  
Mad treasure from the unknown clime  
Of worlds beyond the Western Sea.

Now in my bay the sails are furled.  
But I, who guess their native skies,  
Henceforth must roam that golden world,  
Where strange winds whisper and strange scents  
rise.

*Immortal Fuji's snowy crown—  
Wide seas with sky of amethyst—  
A street where torrents thunder down—  
Branches that toss against the mist—  
Smooth hills and hill-girt plains where run  
Streams through the rice fields steeped in  
heat—  
Pines gnarled above a sunken sun—  
Cold heights where cloud and mountain meet.*

Now visions enter to my breast  
That from thy passion won their birth  
When like a bride in radiance dressed  
Before thee glowed the summers of earth.

What magic gave thee to behold  
This fairness, secret from our sight,  
Where morning walks the world in gold,  
Or seas turn gray with coming night?

For thee, as when the South Winds blow,  
Lands burst to bloom. On every shore  
Where beauty dwells thou didst bestow  
A perilous mortal beauty more.

*Twilight and morn on Biwa's breast—  
Harima's sands and lordly pines—  
White Hira-mountain's winter crest—  
The low red dusk round Yedo shrines—  
The moon beneath the Monkey Bridge—  
The Poisoned River's brooding gloom—  
Rose-dawn on some Tokaido ridge—  
Pale water-worlds of lotus bloom.*

Our toiling race is with the day  
Wearied, and restless with the night,—  
Unpausing, on its tombward way,  
For fear or wonder or delight,—

Unwatchful, mid the somber things  
That mesh us in a vain employ,  
For peace that half of heaven brings,  
For beauty that is wholly joy.

Lover for whom the world was wide!  
Down lighted pathways thou didst move—  
Where hills and seas and cities hide  
So much for weary men to love.

*The mist of cherry trees in spring—  
Ships sleeping on some bright lagoon—  
A swallow's dusky sweeping wing—  
Steep Ishiyama's autumn moon—  
The changing marvels of faint rain—  
The foam that hides the torrent's stream—  
The eagle o'er the snowy plain—  
Sea-twilight's haunted as a dream.*

Speaking, thou laidst thy brush aside,—  
"On a long journey I repair—  
Regions beyond the Western Tide—  
To view the wonderful landscapes there."

Yet, at Adzuma, loosed from all  
Thy mortal bonds, made free to roam,  
Methinks thou couldst not break the thrall  
That held thee to thy human home.

Surely no heaven could harbor thee,  
Nor other world of keener bliss,  
Who didst with such deep constancy  
Worship the loveliness of this.—

*Moon-flooded throngs in Yedo's streets—  
Dawn-quicken'd travelers on their road—  
Lone ocean-fronting hill retreats—  
An Oiran's perilous-sweet abode—  
A mighty Buddha by the sea  
Where all the wondering pilgrims meet—  
Immortal 'Fuji, changelessly  
Watching the world around her feet.*



## EPILOGUE

Bring forth, my friend, these faded sheets,  
Whose charm our labored utterance flies.  
Perhaps our later search repeats  
The groping of those scholars' eyes

Who, ere the dawned Renaissant day,  
With duskêd sight and doubtful hand,  
Bent o'er the pages of some gray  
Greek text they could not understand;

Drawn by the sense that there concealed  
Lay key to spacious realms unknown;  
Held by the need that be revealed  
Forgotten worlds to light their own.



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